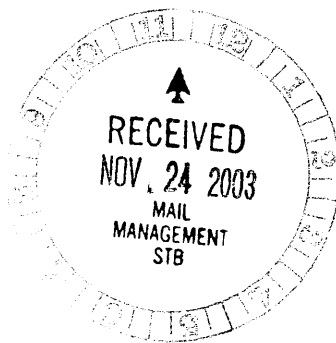
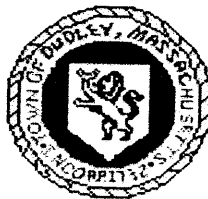


E1-405

**TOWN OF DUDLEY**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**



Joseph E. Sendrowski  
*Chairman*  
John C. Zajkowski  
*Vice Chairman*  
Anthony B. DiDonato Sr  
Dorothy Mann  
Al Reich



Mary C. Devlin  
*Administrative Secretary*

Phone: (508) 949-8000  
Fax: (508) 949-8013

November 18, 2003

David Navecky  
Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

The Dudley Board of Selectmen strongly supports the abandonment of the rail line referred to as the Southbridge Running Track extending from Milepost 0.18 in Webster, Massachusetts to Milepost 10.98 in Southbridge, Massachusetts (STB Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-No. 7X)). The Board also supports the application by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Construction for a Public Use Condition and Interim Trail Use Condition. In conformance with recommendations encompassed in the *Dudley, Massachusetts Master Plan 2000* and the draft *Dudley Open Space and Recreation Plan: 2004 to 2009*, the Town of Dudley hopes that this inactive railway will be transformed into a multi-purpose trail for the use and enjoyment of area residents and tourists.

Thompson, Connecticut and Dudley, Webster and Southbridge, Massachusetts are within the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. Dubbed "the last green valley" in the sprawling metropolitan Boston-to-Washington corridor, the area is a resource of local, regional and national importance. The mission of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. is "to conserve, celebrate and enhance the significant historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources of the Last Green Valley while promoting a quality of life based on a strong, healthy economy compatible with the region's character." Reuse of the railway as a multi-purpose trail complies with this mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Joseph E. Sendrowski*  
*John C. Zajkowski*  
*Anthony B. DiDonato Sr.*  
*Dorothy A. Mann*  
*Al Reich*